



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
PHIL HARDBERGER
MAYOR

March 26, 2009

The Honorable Lamar S. Smith
U.S. Congressman, District 21
2409 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

I am writing to respectfully request your vital support for the San Antonio Channel Improvements Project (Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project) for the City of San Antonio. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) previous channelization project degraded the river environment and denuded its ecosystem. The project fulfills the Corps restoration mission and supports the Corps Environmental Operating Principles and restoration policy. It is fully authorized and has obtained all necessary technical project approvals from the Assistant Secretary of the Army and all required construction agreements with the Corps have been executed.

This funding will assist in the construction of Phases II and III of the eight mile project and advance the planting of native trees in Phases I - IV. Phase II includes restoration of 120 acres of native riparian habitat and the addition of 6,630 native trees, six acres of embayment habitat, approximately 13 riffle structures, hike and bike trails and associated recreational amenities, and instream foot bridges. Phase III includes the restoration of approximately 40 acres of native riparian habitat and the addition of approximately 3,122 native trees, a hike and bike trail along the project length, an instream pedestrian footbridge, and associated recreational amenities.

We are optimistic that this initiative will receive your endorsement and enthusiastic support. This project will restore approximately 160 acres of native riparian habitat and the addition of approximate 10,000 native trees.

We truly believe in the significance and value of this project. Our optimal goal is to continuously improve the quality of for the citizens of San Antonio. I am grateful for your commitment as we move forward with this initiative.

Thank you for your admirable service to our community. I invite your to contact me if you have any questions, or if further clarification is required.

Sincerely,


Phil Hardberger
Mayor